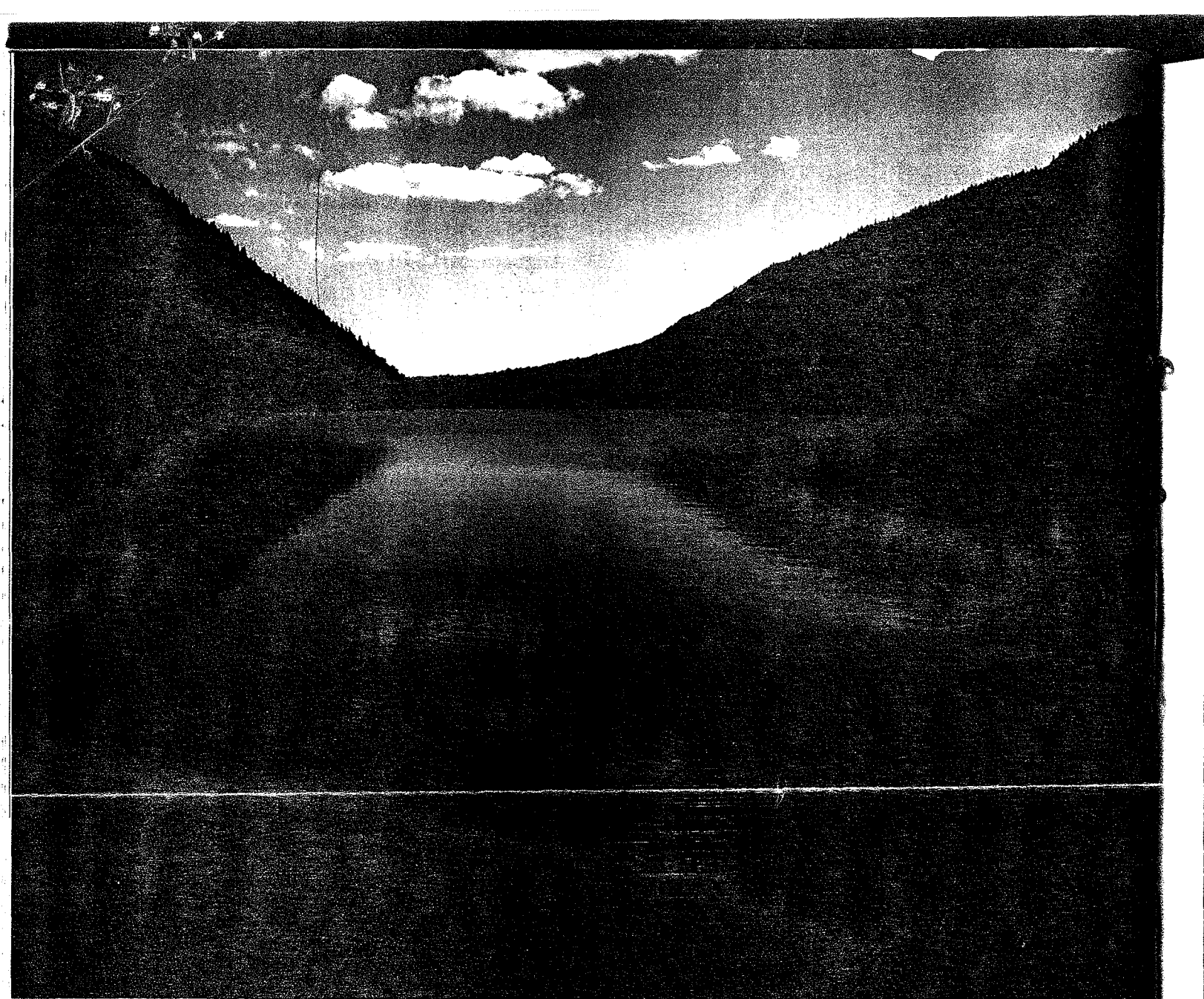




Fisherman's Visit To:

ACADIA NATIONAL PARK

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FISHERMEN VISITING beautiful Acadia National Park on Mount Desert Island will find plenty of opportunities to try their luck. Fishable populations of landlocked salmon, Atlantic salmon, brook trout, lake trout (commonly known as togue in Maine), brown trout, smallmouth bass,

A breathtaking view of Echo Lake.

white perch, and pickerel all exist within a 30-mile drive of the island.

The principal drawback of which all visitors should be made aware "right off the bat" is the almost total lack of boat rental facilities in the area. Most of the above-mentioned sportfish are very difficult to catch from shore, especially during the peak tourist months of July and August. So, unless you can fish from a small boat or canoe, the odds are against you.

Specialized techniques, all of which require a boat, are needed to catch the coldwater sportfish during the warm summer months. You definitely need a small boat with motor or a canoe if you are serious about providing some freshwater fish for the family campfire. Assuming that you have, or can obtain, a boat, however, let's find out where you might strike pay dirt!

Long Pond, located in Mount Desert and Southwest Harbor, produces some of the most consistent landlocked salmon fishing in eastern Maine. Many of the salmon creeled measure between 16 and 17+ inches, but some three- and four-pound fish are caught annually. The fishery is sustained largely through annual stockings of six- to eight-inch spring yearling salmon, although some wild fish are produced in the outlet through natural reproduction. To catch salmon in the summer, you should fish in the cool water 25 to 35 feet below the surface. Trolling lead line with a lure or sewed-on bait, and drift fishing with live bait, are the preferred methods of fooling the landlocked. Long Pond also contains smallmouth bass, although most of the fish are rather small (eight to twelve inches).

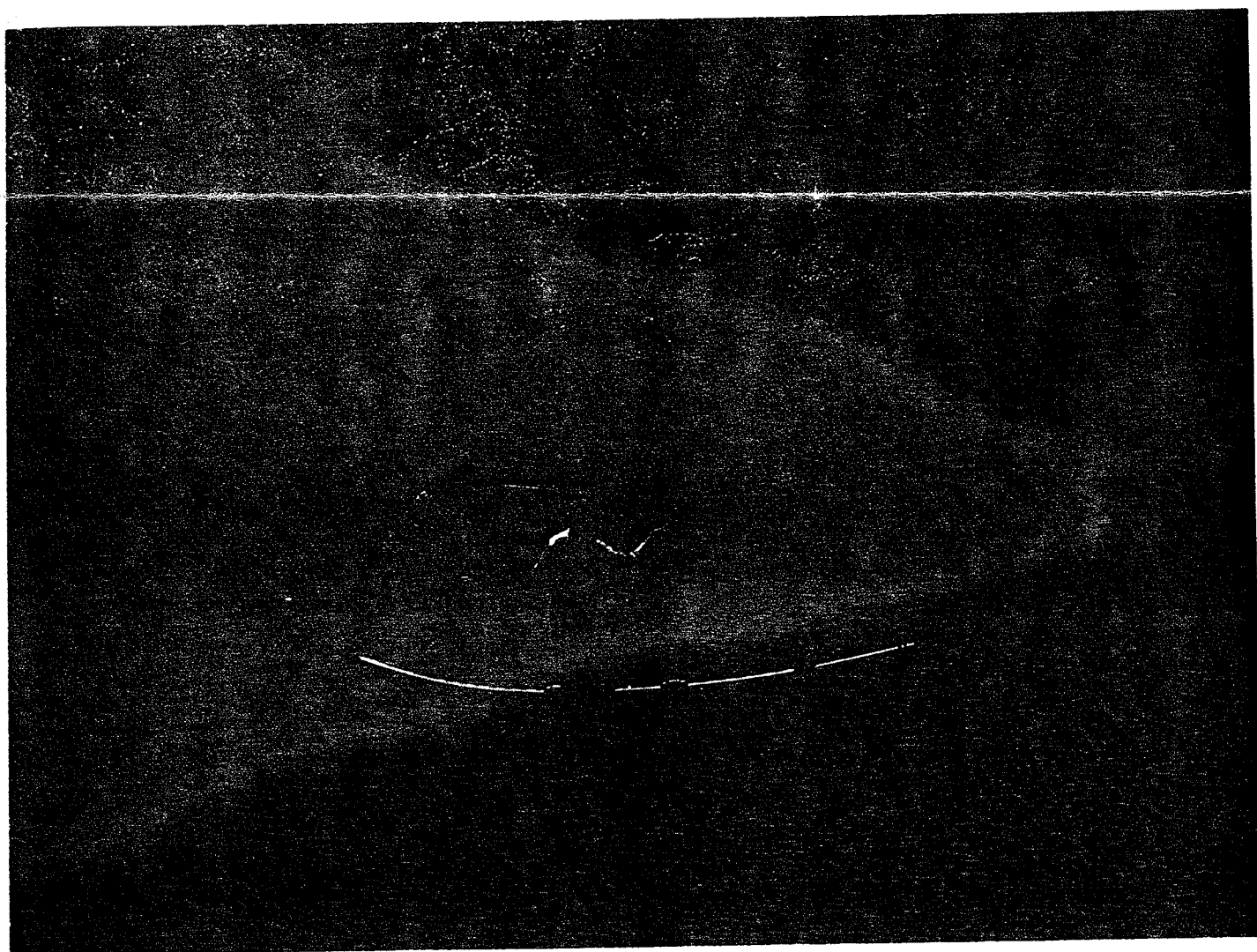
Jordan Pond, situated entirely within Acadia National Park, offers the angler a chance to catch salmon or lake trout (togue) while enjoying the fine view of the steep mountainsides bordering the pond's western and eastern shores. Most salmon taken from Jordan Pond are in the 15- to 16-inch range, although the pond has the capacity to grow big salmon (a three-pound seven-

ounce beauty garnered first place in a winter fishing derby held on Mount Desert Island in February of 1982). Anglers hoping to land a togue should fish the bottom in water 45 to 80 feet deep, as this species favors deep, cold water. A special regulation on the pond prohibits the use of motors of more than 10 horsepower. For those members of the family who are not fishermen, a pleasant hiking trail surrounds the pond.

Eagle Lake, situated among the mountains of Acadia National Park, supports fisheries for brook trout, salmon, and togue. Both the salmon and togue fisheries are totally dependent upon stocking programs. Experimental stocking (directed by Research Biologist Keith Havey) of unusually low numbers of togue in the late 1970s has produced remarkable growth rates and excellent returns to fishermen.

Keith, assisted by Census Clerk Leslie Smith, is conducting a long-term study involving brook trout at Eagle Lake. They are monitoring the performance in the wild of a number of different strains of brook trout

A fisherman tries his luck at one of the many ponds found in the park.



whose parents have exhibited a tendency to live to older ages (from four to six years). A very intensive census is operated during both the ice and open water fishing seasons to collect data on the growth and survival characteristics of the various strains of hatchery trout, in addition to the native trout inhabiting the pond. A number of special regulations are in effect at Eagle Lake, and anglers are advised to consult their lawbooks prior to fishing.

FOR THOSE ANGLERS interested in catching a Maine brook trout, additional area waters worthy of note include Echo Lake, Witchole Pond, and Simmons Pond. Echo Lake, partly within the confines of the park, is managed for brook trout and salmon. The pond's trout population is sustained entirely through natural reproduction.

To enhance this fishery, special regulations in effect include a 12-inch minimum legal length limit on trout and a daily bag limit of two trout. These regulations are designed to allow the trout to spawn at least once prior to being subjected to angling mortality. The pond's principal spawning tributary, Lurvy Brook, is closed to fishing.

Witchole Pond, in Bar Harbor, produces trout from eight to eleven inches in length. The fishery is maintained by annual stockings of fall fingerling trout. Simmons Pond, located just outside Ellsworth, has produced some chunky eight- to ten-inch trout in recent years along with an occasional 12- to 14-inch specimen. You can drive close enough to this small seven-acre pond so that a small boat or canoe can be easily carried to the shore.

For the serious-minded angler interested in catching a large togue, a good bet is Green Lake, located in Ellsworth. An excellent public boat landing area is maintained by the city of Ellsworth, with access from Route 1A. The Fish and Wildlife Department recently concluded a five-year stocking program there, utilizing Allagash-strain togue. Growth rates exhibited by the initial two stockings have been above average, although returns to anglers have been disappointing thus far.

The 1976-81 stockings are presently providing fish from two to four pounds in weight. Furthermore, recent monitoring has confirmed the fact that there are meaningful numbers of eight- to fifteen-pound togue still in the lake from the stockings conducted in 1962-65. To stand a chance at landing one of these deep-water denizens, you must fish on bottom in water 50-85 feet deep. Green Lake also has 14- to 16-inch salmon, and some good-sized smallmouth bass (an added bonus!).

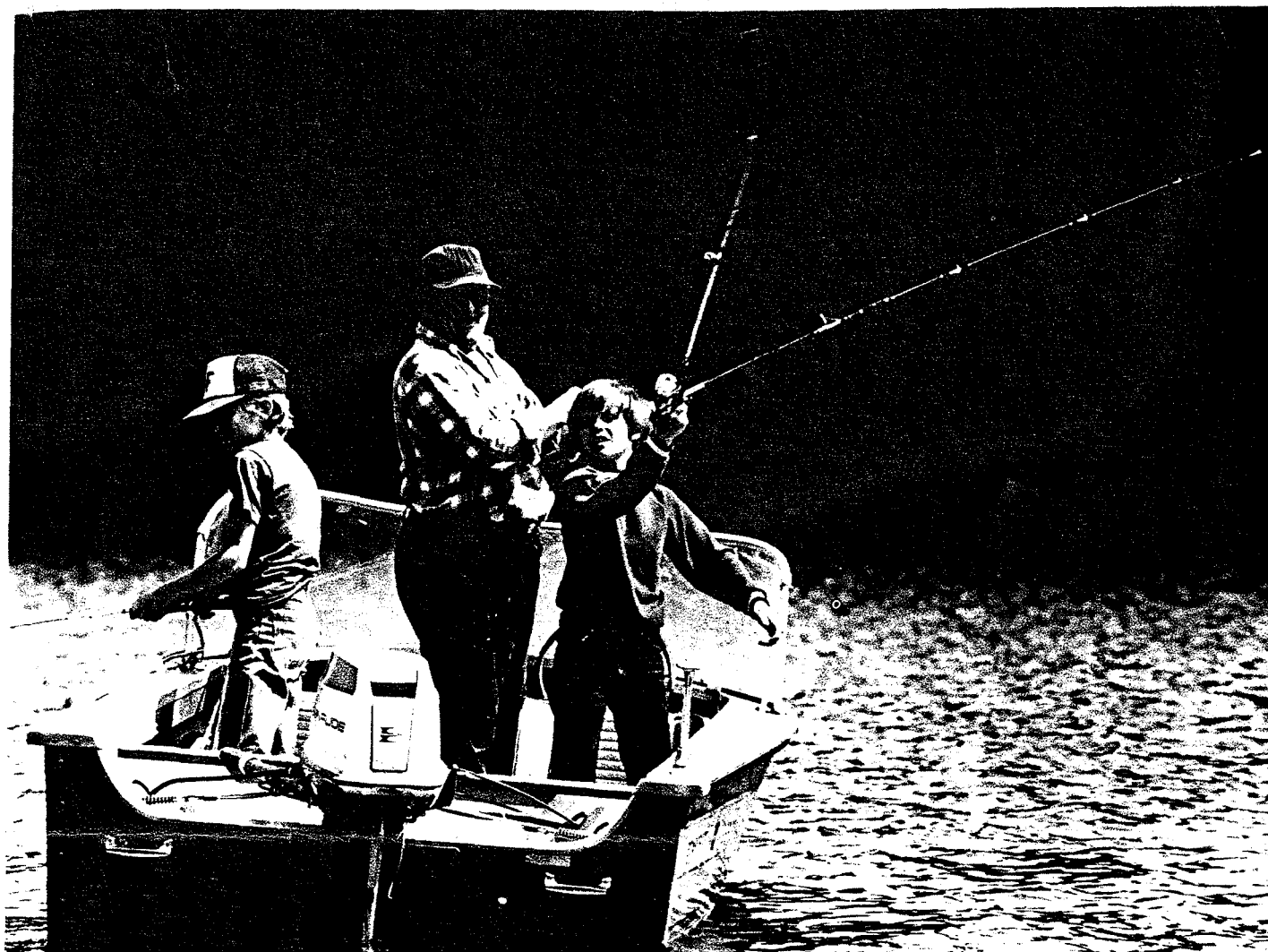
For the brown trout enthusiast, Upper and Lower Hadlock Ponds fill the bill. Upper Hadlock, adjacent to Route 198, lies entirely within Acadia National Park. The brown trout fishery is maintained by stockings of



C. Leslie Smith gathers census information from a young angler.

spring yearlings to augment the natural reproduction which occurs in the outlet. Smelts provide an important forage item in the diet of brown trout in this pond. The outlet flows into Lower Hadlock Pond, which therefore receives the benefit of downstream-migrating five- to seven-inch native brown trout parr. Growth of brown trout in Lower Hadlock is very good, due in part to an abundant population of isopods, a type of aquatic crustacean which are actively consumed by the brown trout. This 39-acre pond produced at least three fish in the three- to five-pound class during the 1982 ice fishing season.

THAT BRINGS US TO the warmwater sportfish—smallmouth bass, white perch, and pickerel. While all three species can be caught on the Island (Hamilton Pond in Bar Harbor is a good bet



Freshwater angling opportunities abound for the summer visitor in Acadia National Park.

for pickerel), the best warmwater fishing is found in a number of lakes lying within an hour's drive.

Heading the list is Graham Lake in Ellsworth, a large man-made lake on the Union River. It supports abundant populations of all three warmwater sportfish, but is especially noted for its good-sized white perch and pickerel. A newly-constructed public boat launching area is available adjacent to the Bangor Hydro dam on the outlet.

Georges Pond in Franklin offers the angler some fine fishing for white perch and smallmouth bass. The pond provides a consistent fishery for larger-than-average white perch (from 11 to 13 inches) and bass (from 14 to 18 inches). The best way to catch perch is to drift a worm on bottom in 15 to 25 feet of water in the evening—once you catch one, immediately drop anchor! With any luck at all, you can catch a "nice mess" before the school moves on, and you'll have some mighty fine eating!

Alamoosook Lake in Orland contains good populations of attractively-sized smallmouth bass, white perch, and pickerel. While fishing Alamoosook, stop in

and visit the Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery where young Atlantic salmon are raised.

Maine is the only state in the nation with rivers which support native runs of Atlantic salmon. Both the Union River in Ellsworth and the Narraguagus River in Cherryfield offer the angler a chance at these highly-prized sportsfish, which typically weigh from nine to twelve pounds. It should be pointed out that these fish are exceedingly difficult to catch during July and August. Also, a special stamp is required for anglers wishing to fish in fresh water for Atlantic salmon.

It is evident that there are abundant freshwater angling opportunities for the summer visitor to Acadia National Park. While fishing is generally at its worst during the months of July and August, you can at least fish the above-mentioned waters secure in the knowledge that *the fish are there*. Whether you are sufficiently skilled and lucky enough to catch them remains to be seen, but that's what fishing is all about! ■